IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/706,742 Examiner: Farrokh, Hashem Filed: November 12, 2003 Group/Art Unit: 2187 Inventor(s): Atty. Dkt. No: 5760-16400 Hans F. van Rietschote, Mahesh P. Saptarshi, and Craig W. Hobbs Title: Provisioning and Snapshotting Using Copy on Read/Write and Transient Virtual Machine Technology

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF December 4, 2006

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of December 4, 2006, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.